Also good suggestions have come from him. When a Bill was introduced in 1988, it was felt that it was not a comprehensive Bill. The Committee on Petitions of the Lok Sabha went into it and they came out with certain suggestions. We have to consult various State Government. I am convinced that it takes time because to achieve unanimity on various proposals by all the State Governments is not an easy task. In fact, after a prolonged discussion and negotiations with them, it was only on the 18th May this year, that the Labour Ministers' agreed to this proposal. I can assure the House that it is in the final stage. I hope that by the next session of Parliament, I should be in a position to introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Injuries Caused to Abducted Tourists during their Liberation Effort

*304. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the foreign nationals under abduction by the Jammu and Kashmir terrorists were injured during the effort to liberate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have agreed to some of the demands put by the abductors, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the progress made so far in liberating them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Out of six foreign tourists who had been abducted by the terrorists, one had escaped and was rescued unharmed on 8.7.1995. However, one of the abducted foreign nationals was brutally killed and his body was recovered on 13.8.1995. Four persons continue to be held hostage by the terrorists. According to the State Government, it is not a fact that any of them was injured as per information available with them.

(c) and (d) The aim and effort of Government has been to try and bring about the safe release of the hostages, through a process of dialogue and persuasion and by appealing to the sense of reason and humanity among those responsible for the abduction; and to desist from doing anything that could provide encouragement to further acts of terrorism including abduction. Simultaneously, the Government have avoided any precipitate action which could jeopardise the lives of the hostages. A continuous and close watch is being kept on the situation and further steps will be taken as may be necessary keeping in view the above objectives.

Speedy disposal of Pension and Terminal Claims

*305. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has issued any instructions/suggestions to Government Departments/ Instrumentalities etc. for speedy disposal of pension and terminal claims of the pensioners through Pension Adalats;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any such Adalats have been held by the Ministries/ Departments/Instrumentalities recently; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the outcome of such Pension Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The important features of the guidelines issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare include giving of adequate notice to Pensioners for such Adalats, wide Publicity on Radio/T.V. and in Newspapers, on-the-

spot decision as far as possible, association of representatives of Pensioners Associations and proper follow-up within a prescribed time-frame.

(c) and (d) Pension Adalats are held by the respective Ministries/Departments who monitor the progress of settlement of cases in such Adalats. No centralised information is maintained in this regard. The emphasis in Pension Adalats is to settle maximum number of cases on the spot. The holding of Pension Adalats by Ministries/Departments such as Railways, Defence, Posts and Tele-communications for the settlement of pensionary cases/ grievances is an on going process.

Recycling of disposable surgical items

*306. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Times of India (Delhi) of June 9, 1995 to the effect that recycling of disposable surgical items, *viz.* syringes and other items have become a thriving trade in the capital city of India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether the disposal surgical items after recycling and repacking are being supplied to various hospitals and private clinics in Delhi and other parts of the country; whether Government have made any survey in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check/stop this trade?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report alleges inter alia that the disposable used syringes, drip bottles and urine bags are sold to the junk dealers; these are revealed and supplied. to pharmacies and drug stores near the basic health units and Government hospitals close to Delhi border.

(c) No such information has been received.

(d) Guidelines on control of Hospital acquired infection circulated to all States/ Union Territories, inter-alia, indicate procedure for the disposal of single use needles and single use syringes so as to avoid their recycling.

MBBS Doctors prescribing Homoeopathic Medicine

*307. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MBBS qualified doctors enjoy the liberty to prescribe homoeopathic medicines to their patients with their consent in certain cases where such medicines are found to be more effective than allopathic ones for alleviating their sufferings without any after-effect; and

(b) whether the Medical Council of India has any authority to object to the use of homoeopathic medicines by these doctors in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) According to Section 15 (2) (b) of Homoeopathy Central Council Act, no person other than a practitioner of homoeopathy possessing a recognised medical qualification under the said act and enrolled on a State Register or the Central Register of homoeopathy, can practise homoeopathy.

Implementation of VRS in NAFIC

*308. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Voluntary